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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN JOSE DIVISION

CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ARISTA NETWORKS, INC.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 5:14-cv-5344-BLF (NC)

**CISCO'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF ITS
MOTION TO EXCLUDE EXPERT
OPINION TESTIMONY FROM
DEFENDANT'S EXPERT WILLIAM
SEIFERT**

REDACTED VERSION

Date: September 9, 2016
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dept: Courtroom 3 - 5th Floor
Judge: Hon. Beth Labson Freeman

1 Plaintiff Cisco Systems, Inc. (“Cisco”) respectfully submits this reply in support of its
 2 Motion to Exclude Expert Opinion Testimony From Defendant’s (“Arista”) Expert William
 3 Seifert (Dkt. 430 (“Motion” or “Mot.”)) and in response to Arista’s Opposition thereto (Dkt. 471).

4 **I. INTRODUCTION**

5 Even if Mr. Seifert is a “businessman” and “trained engineer” as Arista asserts (Opp. 2),
 6 those common credentials do not qualify Mr. Seifert to present any “expert” opinion about “*de*
 7 *facto* industry standards” for user interfaces in the network equipment industry. Arista’s
 8 Opposition fails to rebut that Mr. Seifert’s “industry standard” opinion relies on a test that (i) was
 9 invented for this lawsuit; (ii) was never expressed even prior to the lawsuit; (iii) has never been
 10 reviewed or adopted by anyone else; (iv) relies on four factors, each of which turns on
 11 “subjective” judgment calls and therefore cannot be tested objectively; and (v) results in an
 12 opinion that is not specific as to time or any version or component of Cisco’s CLI. Nor do Mr.
 13 Seifert’s credentials qualify him to opine as an expert on “market harm,” and his testimony on that
 14 topic merely repeats materials prepared by others, such as Arista brochures and news articles.

15 **II. ARGUMENT**

16 **A. On “Industry Standards,” Mr. Seifert Lacks Credentials Under Rule 702(a)**

17 Arista argues (Opp. 2) that Mr. Seifert is qualified to opine on whether Cisco’s CLI is a
 18 “*de facto* industry standard” because he is “a businessman” and “trained engineer” with CLI
 19 experience. But by his own admission, Mr. Seifert has no relevant experience with Cisco’s CLI
 20 —he admits that [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]
 22 [REDACTED]
 23 [REDACTED]
 24 [REDACTED]
 25 Moreover, even if Mr. Seifert has relevant experience as a “businessman” and “trained
 26 engineer,” he lacks any *specialized* knowledge that would assist the jury as to the supposed
 27 existence of any “*de facto* industry standard.” Mr. Seifert has [REDACTED]
 28 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
 2 [REDACTED]
 3 [REDACTED] Mot. 3-4
 4 (citing Seifert Depo.).

5 **B. On “Industry Standards,” Mr. Seifert’s Opinion Fails Rule 702(b)**

6 Arista argues (Opp. 3) that Mr. Seifert’s “*de facto* industry standard” opinion satisfies Rule
 7 702(b) because he reached that opinion “following a careful analysis of the facts.” But the record
 8 in this case shows otherwise. He relied on hundreds of data points provided by another expert
 9 without considering or verifying their content except [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] He was wrong about the timing of Cisco’s creation of its
 11 CLI *by a decade. Id.*¹ Even by the time of his deposition, well after he prepared his report, Mr.
 12 Seifert had not [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]
 14 [REDACTED] *See ante.* He furthermore testified that, even as late as his deposition, he
 15 thought that [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]
 17 [REDACTED] All parties know that is wrong.
 18 Dkt. 482 at pp. 9-10. Mr. Seifert cannot purport to opine as an “expert” about whether the “Cisco
 19 CLI” is a “*de facto* industry standard” when he is not familiar with the CLI, nor its various
 20 versions, nor its history, nor even its contents.

21 **C. On “Industry Standards,” Mr. Seifert’s Opinion Fails Rule 702(c)**

22 Arista does not dispute that Mr. Seifert’s definition of, and four-factor test for, a “*de facto*
 23 industry standard” were [REDACTED]

24 ¹ Arista tries to excuse this glaring mistake by pointing out that Mr. Seifert relied on a 2009
 25 blog posting written by a former Cisco consultant named Terry Slattery. Opp. at 4. But even that
 26 blog posting (which taken alone is not a responsible factual basis on which an expert should form
 27 opinions) recognizes that Cisco’s CLI existed in the 1980s. *See* <http://www.netcraftsmen.com/the-history-of-the-cisco-cli/> (“Back in the late 1980s...the Cisco CLI underwent several changes.”). It
 28 thus appears that Mr. Seifert failed to perform “a careful analysis” of even the single blog posting
 he relied upon.

1 [REDACTED]. Mot. 3-4. Nor does
 2 Arista dispute that *each* of the four “factors” that Mr. Seifert invented for his test for a “*de facto*
 3 industry standard” turns—by Mr. Seifert’s own admission—on [REDACTED] *Id.* On
 4 these bases alone, Mr. Seifert’s “industry standard” opinions should be excluded. *Feduniak v. Old*
 5 *Republic Nat’l Title Co.*, No. 13-cv-02060-BLF, 2015 WL 1969369 (N.D. Cal. May 1, 2015)
 6 (excluding testimony from a proposed expert who lacked expertise relevant to the specific issue in
 7 dispute, who invented a new test, and who could not check that test or its results against industry-
 8 accepted benchmarks).

9 Nonetheless, Arista argues (Opp. 5-6) that Mr. Seifert’s opinion should be admitted under
 10 *Hangarter v. Provident Life & Accident Ins. Co.*, 373 F.3d 998, 1018 (9th Cir. 2004). But in that
 11 case, the court held admissible industry-standard opinion testimony by an expert who had over 25
 12 years’ business and expert testifying experience (*twelve times*) with the *exact issue* that was
 13 disputed in the case, namely whether the insurance company’s claim review process was
 14 consistent with insurance industry standards for the same. *Id.* at 1016. That is not true here, given
 15 that Mr. Seifert has admitted (Mot. 4) [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] In addition, contrary to Arista’s suggestion, *Hangarter*
 17 did not relax the *Daubert* standards for non-scientific testimony. 373 F.3d at 1018 (“[T]he district
 18 court erred in stating that *Daubert* did not apply to Caliri’s non-scientific testimony[.]”). And
 19 while *Hangartner* noted that the reliability of the expert’s testimony in that case “was not
 20 contingent upon a particular methodology or technical framework,” *id.*, that is *not true* in this case
 21 given that Mr. Seifert has affirmatively stated that [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]
 23 [REDACTED]
 24 [REDACTED] Mot. 3-4.

25 Finally, Arista argues that Mr. Seifert should be permitted to present his subjective beliefs
 26 to the jury so long as (i) they are based on his “experience in the industry” and (ii) he is “operating
 27 within a vocational framework that may have numerous objective components.” Opp. 6 (quoting
 28 [REDACTED])

1 *GSI Tech., Inc. v. Cypress Semiconductor Corp.*, No. 5:11-CV-03613-EJD, 2015 WL 364796, at
 2 *2 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 27, 2015), and *U.S. v. Llera Plaza*, 188 F. Supp. 2d 549, 570-571 (E.D. Pa.
 3 2002)). But even if Arista's interpretation of that case law authority were credited, it cannot
 4 salvage Mr. Seifert's "expert" opinions here. He has admitted that [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]
 6 [REDACTED] Mot. 3-4. Likewise, there is no evidence in the record that Mr.
 7 Seifert defined, formulated a test for, and/or performed an expert inquiry into the "*de facto*
 8 industry standard" status for Cisco's CLI with any "objective components." Instead, by Mr.
 9 Seifert's own admissions, [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] Mot. 4.

11 **D. On "Industry Standards," Mr. Seifert's Opinion Fails Rule 702(d)**

12 Even though Mr. Seifert cannot pinpoint when Cisco's CLI supposedly became a "*de facto*
 13 industry standard," Arista argues (Opp. 7) that his opinion meets the level of required specificity.
 14 But Rule 702(d) requires far more than a vague supposition that such a crucial event occurred [REDACTED]
 15 [REDACTED] Opp. 7. The fact that Mr. Seifert is unable to say *when* Cisco's CLI
 16 supposedly became a "*de facto* industry standard" except by identifying [REDACTED] is
 17 especially problematic given that Cisco is asserting copyright infringement against Arista based on
 18 copying of aspects of Cisco's CLI that trace to the 1980s, throughout the 1990s, and well beyond
 19 2000. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 372-7 (showing that the 500+ multi-word CLI commands that Cisco is
 20 asserting in this lawsuit were created/released from the mid-1980s through well after 2000, as late
 21 as 2013). His opinion nowhere specifies its application to any particular timeframe and is unclear
 22 as to any Cisco CLI developments before, within or after the [REDACTED]. Rule 702(d) does not permit
 23 Mr. Seifert to offer a vague [REDACTED] opinion of "*de facto* industry standard" status.

24 Mr. Seifert further fails to satisfy Rule 702(d) because he lacks familiarity with the CLI,
 25 and applies his new test only to Cisco CLI [REDACTED] Mot. 6. Arista counters (Opp. 7) that
 26 "his opinion refers to the aspects of Cisco's CLI that are commonly or widely used." But that is
 27 circular; by definition, an "industry standard" is common or widely used. Mr. Seifert is unable to
 28 explain *what aspects* (for example, which multi-word commands) of Cisco's CLI qualify as

1 “widely used” under his novel, unvetted, four-part subjective test.

2 **E. On “Industry Standards,” Mr. Seifert’s Opinion Is Irrelevant**

3 Arista argues (Opp. 8) that Mr. Seifert’s “*de facto* industry standard” argument is relevant
 4 to this case because “interoperability” is relevant to a fair use defense under *Oracle America, Inc.*
 5 *v. Google, Inc.*, 750 F.3d 1339, 1376-77 (Fed. Cir. 2014). This argument is incorrect because the
 6 “interoperability” at issue in *Oracle* is not at issue here—Arista has admitted that [REDACTED]
 7 [REDACTED] See, e.g.,
 8 Dkt. 348 at p. 21 (citing Arista admissions); Dkt. 396-3 at p. 13 (same). Nor does Mr. Seifert’s
 9 testimony bear on whether Cisco’s CLI was an “industry standard” *at the time of creation*, as any
 10 interoperability analogy would require. See *Oracle*, 750 F.3d at 1361 (for merger: “to be evaluated
 11 at the time of creation, not at the time of infringement”); *id.* at 1372 (“no authority for [the]
 12 suggestion that copyrighted works lose protection when they become popular”). Finally, Arista
 13 argues that the “industry standard” issue is relevant to an estoppel defense. To support that novel
 14 argument, Arista cites one authority: *McIntosh v. N. Cal. Universal Enters. Co.*, 670 F. Supp. 2d
 15 1069, 1101 (E.D. Cal. 2009). But that case says, literally, *nothing* about industry standards in
 16 relation to an estoppel defense, nor any issue at all.

17 **F. Mr. Seifert’s “Market Harm” Opinion Fails Under Rules 702(a), (b) and (c)**

18 Arista fails to overcome Cisco’s showing that Mr. Seifert lacks any expertise to opine on
 19 “market harm.” Arista does not dispute that Mr. Seifert’s “market harm” opinion simply recounts
 20 internal Arista documents, Arista brochures, and a selection of press reports and competitive-
 21 testing analyses prepared by others. As the Court can see by reviewing the relevant portion of Mr.
 22 Seifert’s written report on this topic (Dkt. 431-5 at pp. 38-50), Mr. Seifert has applied no
 23 specialized expertise about market harm or market share dynamics; undertaken no analysis of his
 24 own about the comparative features of Cisco versus Arista products; and adds nothing to the third-
 25 party materials on which it is based. Rule 702 does not permit an “expert” to recite what he has
 26 read in industry periodicals and in Arista’s brochures without any further discernable analysis.

27 **III. CONCLUSION**

28 Cisco respectfully requests that the Court grant Cisco’s Motion.

1
2 Dated: August 26, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

3 /s/ John M. Neukom

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